

Message Text

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S/S-RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 288872

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

FOL REPEAT GENEVA 9404 ACTION SECSTATE DTD NOV 24.

QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9404

NODIS

FOR SCHAUFELE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: NO CONCLUSION YET

1. EDWARD MDHLOVU, NKOMO'S CLOSE ASSISTANT, CALLED
ON ME AT 5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME TO BRING ME UP TO DATE
ON THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN NKOMO AND MUGABE.

2. ACCORDING TO NDHLOVU, THE MUGABE DELEGATION
FAILED TO APPEAR THIS MORNING AT 10:00, ASKED FOR A
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POSTPONEMENT UNTIL 11:00 AND DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL

3:00. MDHLOVU CAME TO ME DIRECTLY FROM THE MEETING.

3. MDHLOVU SAID THAT THE MUGABE DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED MUGABE, GUMBO, TADERERE, MUDZI AND TAKERE SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE LATEST BRITISH STATEMENT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE A "MANDATE" TO ACCEPT ANY STATEMENT WHICH DID NOT MENTION DECEMBER 1, 1977 AS THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE. WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY MEANT BY MANDATE, MUGABE'S GROUP WAS VAGUE. MUGABE HAD VERY LITTLE TO SAY DURING THE MEETING AND HIS SUB-ORDINATES DID MOST OF THE TALKING. THEY TOLD NKOMO THAT THEY HAD TO CHECK WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN AFRICA BEFORE THEY COULD CHANGE THEIR POSITION.

4. NKOMO UNDERSTANDS, ACCORDING TO NDHKOVU, THERE HAS BEEN FIERCE DEBATE WITHIN THE MUGABE DELEGATION AND THAT OPINIONS ARE BADLY DIVIDED. SOME MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION IN PRIVATE HAVE ARGUED THAT THE ZANU GROUP SHOULD ACCEPT THE LATEST BRITISH FORMULA. NDHLOVU DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE MUGABE GROUP SPLIT IN THESE INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS, NOR DOES HE KNOW WHO WILL BE SENT BACK TO AFRICA TO CONSULT TONGAGARA AND COMPANY. HE GUESSED THAT "THOSE WHO LEAVE MAY NOT RETURN."

5. NKOMO HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO THE BRITISH HE WOULD ACCEPT THEIR LATEST STATEMENT WHICH HE CONSIDERS TO BE A VICTORY. HIS SUBORDINATES IN GENEVA AND AFRICA AGREE WITH HIM.

6. AS A FIRST STEP, NKOMO PLANS TO APPEAL TO THE FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL MAKE A LAST ATTEMPT TO CONVERT THE MUGABE GROUP TO HIS POSITION. NDHLOVU WAS PESSIMISTIC. "THESE CHAPS ARE NAIVE AND ARE NOT PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ANY ARGUMENTS."

7. NKOMO HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND WHAT HE WILL DO IF MUGABE AND HIS ASSOCIATES STAND FIRM. HE IS TENTATIVELY THINKING OF TELLING THE BRITISH THAT HE ACCEPTS THEIR STATEMENT AND WILL UNDERTAKE DIS-

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CUSSIONS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND THE CONFERENCE WORK PROGRAM. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PATRIOTIC FRONT UNITY, NKOMO WILL KEEP THE RESIDUAL MUGABE DELEGATION INFORMED OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN DIS- CUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH.

8. I ASKED NDHLOVU HOW HE WOULD LIKE ME TO REPORT NKOMO'S PLANS TO WASHINGTON. NDHLOVU THOUGHT FOR A

WHILE AND THEN SAID HE WISHED TO TALK TO NKOMO AND
GIVE ME A PRECISE ANSWER. HE WILL CALL TOMORROW,
NOVEMBER 25.

9. I HAVE CHECKED WITH THE BRITISH AND THEY HAVE NO
REPORTS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING.BRUNGWRT

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

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